

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Continued Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE "ARMED PEACE" OF EUROPE—APPROACHING ISSUES.

From the N. Y. Herald.

In this day of modern ideas, progress, and Christianity, we have presented us in the Old World the sad spectacle of an "armed peace," which for the interests of civilization is nearly, if not quite, as disastrous as protracted war. European statesmen, who have ever regarded our republic as but an experiment at best, must have been impressed with the peculiar freedom and elasticity of institutions which, after undergoing the fierce ordeal of civil war, so soon permitted the disbanding of martial hosts and the restoration of those things which make for peace and the proper development of the nation.

It remains to be seen whether the current of revolution now prevalent in Europe will be directed with moderation in the smooth channel of peace, or, by ill-adviced zeal, be compelled to find vent in the rugged one of war. France is the main field of action just now, and much depends upon the result of the initiatory contest now in progress. A popular uprising in defiance of imperialism could accomplish nothing so long as Napoleon is sustained by his army; and this fact is doubtless too well appreciated by the leaders of the opposition for them to act with undue haste in precipitating the crisis or provoking a conflict.

The future, at all events, whether for peace or war, is fraught with momentous issues for the peoples of Europe, and we can only hope when the fight does come, if come it must, that those immense standing armies, now a curse to modern civilization, will be used for monarchs against monarchs, instead of by monarchs against their people.

"RECONSTRUCTION" IN MISSISSIPPI.

From the N. Y. World.

The proclamation of General Grant fixing the time for the election in Mississippi, and designating the parts of the new constitution to be submitted to a separate vote, does not challenge special remark, except in relation to the time. There is no necessity, and no good reason, for deferring the election until the 30th of November. The motive for selecting so distant a day is easily understood, and is discreditable to General Grant and his advisers.

There is no such difference in the circumstances of the three States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, that their several elections should be separated by wide intervals of time. The people of Mississippi, and the people of Texas, were just as well qualified, and as fully prepared, to pronounce their judgments on their respective constitutions in the early part of July, as were the people of Virginia. But the object of the administration is not to get a fair and honest expression of the will of the people, but to carry each election, if possible, in favor of the Republican party.

THE NEW CABLE LAID.

From the N. Y. World.

Another mighty marvel is accomplished, and that, too, almost "without observation." The Great Eastern, esteemed for a time the most useful, has once more vindicated her claim to be regarded as the most useful of ships. As easily and quietly as the ordinary steam-packets of commerce transfer their freight of human lives and human works from wharf to wharf, this gigantic vessel has once more linked the thoughts, feelings, wishes, fears, interests of the East with those of the West.

At it was but natural to expect would be the case, the French cable has been laid even more rapidly and with less risk and difficulty than its predecessors. Science deals now with the bed of the Atlantic, unseen and forever to be unseen of human eyes, as calmly, with as much assurance and as precise a forecast, as if it were the well-trodden highway of countless generations. We accept the achievement as the merest matter of course; and few of us will pause from our daily engagements, perplexities, and hopes long enough to bestow even a second thought upon a tale which is yet striking and wonderful enough, were it not fully appreciated and pondered on, to hold children from their sport and old men from the chimney-corner.

But this is not all. It is a melancholy truth that the chief difficulties with which the bold projectors who are now the successful performers of this new wonder have been called to contend, have been not the abysses of the deep to be sounded and spanned, nor its wild waves to be traversed, nor its tempests to be foiled, but the selfishness, the blind greed, the smallness of men. From the inception of this enterprise to the present moment, when we see its greatest natural problems happily solved, it has been watched, assailed, and determined by the jealousy—the short-sighted, and therefore only the more implacable, jealousy—of the proprietors and managers of the cable previously laid from Europe to America. With this enemy it has heretofore been forced to contend in season and out of season. Had the success of the second cable involved the destruction of the first, it could hardly have been more vehemently, more persistently fought against.

And the great public, which can hear of such squabbles over such a subject only with indignation and contempt, must be surprised to learn that the actual connection of this new cable with the telegraphic lines of our own continent is still threatened by the same influences which have so fruitlessly been brought to bear against its progress up to the present hour. The first American terminus of the French cable is the French island of St. Pierre, off the coast of Newfoundland. There it was landed. Another reach of easily submerged wires is now to be made to bring it to our shores at Duxbury, in Massachusetts. It is as plain as the sun in heaven that this communication must be taken, must mature, and must largely to the advantage of the whole American people; and we are quite sure that, only ten short years ago, the idea of holding this communication in doubt even for a moment—we will not say upon any probable, but upon possible hostile action of the American Government—would have seemed to every sane person in the Union the merest madman's madness.

But within these ten short years both the theory and the practice of government in America have undergone many serious, and, for the most part, decidedly lamentable modifications. The least striking proof of the extent of these perturbations is the fact that persons interested in the monopoly heretofore enjoyed by the British cable company have not hesitated, of late, to put about all manner of stories to the effect that "the Government" would interfere, at the last moment, to prevent the people of the United States from enjoying the benefits of a new and enlarged telegraphic intercourse with the rest of mankind. Such an interference, it is true, is as improbable as it is obviously unjustifiable. No law of the United States exists, laying an embargo on telegraphic or any other intercourse between the American people and Europe. Doubtless Congress, in the plenitude of its unwise wisdom, might pass such a law; but doubtless, also, Congress has not passed such a law; and in the absence of such a law, it is hard to see in what way, otherwise than by a shameless use of sheer physical force, unwarranted and unsustained by law, the Government either of the United States or of any other State could possibly interfere to prevent people who have brought us the good gift of a new telegraphic cable all the way from Europe from conferring that good gift upon us. It is hardly to be believed that the administration even of President Grant will care to saddle itself with the odium, at home and abroad, of pandering in this way, by violence, to the schemes and interests of a private corporation in order to paralyze a rival, or at least concurrent, enterprise of infinitely greater moment.

THE INDIAN COMMISSIONS.

From the N. Y. Times.

Mr. Vincent Colyer views our Indian prospects, we fear, somewhat over-happily, since to him everything looks couleur de rose. There is certainly a wide difference between his cheery assurance that "by patient efforts all the tribes can be civilized," and that "in less than two years we shall have heard the last of Indian outrages," and the actual condition of the red man. Mr. Colyer found everything too delightful—school-teachers and farming tools in abundance, and "no drunkenness, no violence, no blasphemous word."

The present year in Indian affairs may be called a tentative or experimental one—the testing of the peace policy which the Quaker Commission is especially aiming to enforce, and which is supported so cheerfully by the administration. Congress, next winter, will have such an amount and variety of information regarding the actual condition of Indian tribes laid before it, as it has never yet enjoyed. The appointment of the Quakers as Superintendents and Agents in so many instances was the cause of rousing a general interest in the Indians among that denomination of Christians. Again, the Indian country has been divided into three grand regions, and each of them will be visited very soon by those members of the Indian Commission, who will examine very closely the actual condition of the red man.

From what has been discovered thus far, we should say that it is likely that the reservation policy will be recommended more strongly than ever, as the basis of all Indian legislation. Congress, next winter, will have such an amount and variety of information regarding the actual condition of Indian tribes laid before it, as it has never yet enjoyed. The appointment of the Quakers as Superintendents and Agents in so many instances was the cause of rousing a general interest in the Indians among that denomination of Christians. Again, the Indian country has been divided into three grand regions, and each of them will be visited very soon by those members of the Indian Commission, who will examine very closely the actual condition of the red man.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The immense emigration to the West and the rapidly augmenting populations of the States of the Pacific from the importation of Chinese, together with the significant movements in the South looking to the introduction of Chinese or coolie labor in that section, in large numbers, have awakened considerable alarm among New England politicians in regard to the tenure of their hold upon the supremacy of the National Government. The papers are beginning to publish statistics showing how the New England States are losing ground in the matter of the apportionment for members of Congress, and how their strength is gradually receding while that of the West is rapidly increasing. It is even proposed to cut Massachusetts in twain and erect a new State out of the western counties. It is also proposed to make two new States out of Maine. This will give New England six additional members in the United States Senate, and a number of members of the lower house. It is probable that Eastern States that can be gerrymandered to advantage will also be carved up into convenient State communities handy to handle and small enough to clap into the breeches pocket of any plucky politician New England may desire to inject into the councils of the nation.

HOW THE VIRGINIA ELECTION IS INTERPRETED.

From the N. Y. Times.

By the Republican press generally the result of the Virginia contest is interpreted fairly and practically. There is no disposition to claim it as a mere partisan triumph, and none to concede the pretensions with which in the first instance Northern Democrats attempted to invest it. Mr. Forney's two papers continue their carping criticism, and the sheet which echoes the mortification of Mr. Wells at Richmond labors hard to misrepresent both the causes and consequences of his defeat. These exceptional grumblers only render more emphatic the congratulations of Republican journals elsewhere, and more significant the meaning they attach to the ratification of the Constitution and the election of Mr. Walker.

The all-pervading feeling is one of satisfaction and hope. Without pausing to analyze the motives of all who supported the Walker ticket, our Republican contemporaries see in its success the gain of the administration and the reconstruction policy with which it is identified. They recognize in the union of influences by which success was achieved the annihilation of the prejudices and passions which have separated white and black, and the strongest assurance of political equality in the future. They are satisfied with the constitution as adopted, and with the

CLOSING UP THE WORK.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The President, as we stated recently, has decided that Mississippi shall vote on her new Constitution and elect new State officers on the fourth Tuesday in November; and the same day has been designated for the kindred election in Texas. It is well not to be too precipitate in so grave a matter, whereof the result is "not for a day, but for all time;" yet we could have wished it expedient that each of these States should be fully reconstructed before the 1st of December; so that the President might announce the gratifying fact in his annual message, and urge Congress to do promptly its part towards perfecting once more the circle of an unbroken Union. Let us have no haste likely to mar the perfection of the work; but, that secured, the earliest day on which military rule can be replaced by republican self-government in the States still under the dominion of the sword, is the best day for the States and for the Union.

The delay that has thus far been found necessary has proved a source of healing. The unprecedented majority by which Virginia votes to resume her place in the Union under a Constitution which guarantees all rights to all, bids fair to be paralleled in Mississippi and in Texas. The latter has framed a Constitution so generous and comprehensive that the ex-Rebels will nearly all vote to ratify it; and everything we hear these days leads us to anticipate the election of General A. J. Hamilton (whom they warmly support) as Governor by a large majority. Mississippi will doubtless be allowed like opportunities with Virginia, and will vote to strike from her proposed Constitution all proscriptive and disfranchising provisions by a large majority. The people of both States are more than satisfied with the action of General Grant in the premises; and are quite ready to settle all outstanding differences on the broad basis of universal amnesty with impartial suffrage. We shall be disappointed if we are doomed to wait till Washington's next birthday to congratulate our country on her perfect restoration to peace and loyalty on the comprehensive basis of all rights for all.

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